

Dear Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Lisa Kelly, and I am from Guilford, CT.

I am writing to support the following bills that will enhance voter participation in Connecticut:

- SB 1057
- HB5004
- HB1064
- HJ1
- SJ29
- GB6693

As we saw in 2020, more access to absentee ballots and early voting opportunities increases voter turnout. Democracy is built on free, fair, and accessible elections, and providing no-excuse absentee ballots and early voting will allow more Connecticut voters access and flexibility in voting. It would reduce long lines on Election Day, and allow for early identification and correction of registration errors or glitches. Connecticut's existing absentee ballot restrictions do not adequately remove the obstacles of voting on a single day that many voters face.

I support the passage of these bills, and believe Connecticut should provide ten days to two weeks of Early Voting, including early morning, evening, and weekend hours. Voters should be allowed a sufficient opportunity to cure minor errors with their ballots. Implementation must guarantee fair access in all towns and be fully funded, including public education. Connecticut cannot delay in enhancing our voting rights in this state—all but 4 states have some form of Early Voting.

Ultimately, enhancing voter participation only strengthens our democracy.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for the work you do on behalf of Connecticut's citizens.

Lisa Kelly
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